

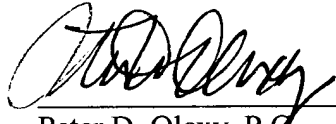
AMENDMENT (TO ACCOMPANY RCE)
U.S. Application No.: 09/725,040

REMARKS

Applicants amend the claims along the line of the claims in allowed USSN 09/982,770 (allowed on December 29, 2004); attached a copy of REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE, and submit herewith a copy of the DECLARATION as submitted in USSN 09/982,770.

A personal interview was conducted in that application and the color photos with the results given to the Examiner. The Examiner is requested to refer to that application for the color results, if possible. If such is not possible, it is believed a color copy might be obtainable from Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 25, 2005

Art Unit: 1711



REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 17 and 20 are under examination.

Of the two, claim 17 is the independent claim. It encompasses a recording paper impregnated with a sizing agent comprising (i) a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide, (ii) a cationic polymer and (iii) a surfactant.

Closest prior art is Auhorn et al (US 4908240). It discloses components (ii), (iii) and polysaccharides in general. Suitable polysaccharides are set forth in col. 7, lines 26-29. However no hint or suggestion is available about use of the (claimed) water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

Claims 17 & 20 are therefore deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Umakant K. Rajguru whose telephone number is 571-272-1077. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 am-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



UKR



James J. Seidleck
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700

Dec. 21, 2004